

## MINUTES

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room  
John A. Hannah Building  
608 West Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan

December 11, 2007  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President  
Mr. John C. Austin, Vice President  
Mrs. Carolyn L. Curtin, Secretary  
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, Treasurer  
Mrs. Nancy Danhof, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bauer  
Mr. Reginald M. Turner  
Ms. Casandra E. Ulbrich  
Mrs. Sue Carnell, representing Governor Jennifer M. Granholm,  
ex officio

Absent: Mrs. June Teisan, 2007-2008 Michigan Teacher of the Year

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

#### II. AGENDA FOLDER ITEMS

- A. Clarification Regarding Attorney General Opinion No. 7126 and Public School Academy Site Locations (Related to Item I)
- B. REVISED Item N – Approval of Criteria for Evaluation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program

#### III. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEMS

- A. Special Education Quick Notes – November 7, 2007 Meeting

#### IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. 2007-2008 Title III – Immigrant Grant Program – Amendment – added to agenda

- B. 2007-2008 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant – Amendment – added to agenda
- C. Approval of Criteria for Evaluation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program – removed from consent agenda and placed under discussion
- D. Approval of the Criteria for the Title I, Part A Schoolwide Planning Grant – removed from consent agenda and placed under discussion

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.**

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Ulbrich**  
**Absent: Danhof, Turner**

**The motion carried.**

V. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, DEPARTMENT STAFF, AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education, Department of Education staff, and guests attending the meeting.

Mr. Turner arrived at 9:50 a.m.

VI. POINT OF THE DAY

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Office of Communications, presented the Point of the Day related to the High School Report Cards. Mr. Ackley said the full results have not been seen from education reforms such as the Michigan Merit Examination and ACT testing implemented in 2005, the Michigan Merit Curriculum implemented in 2006, and the Promise Grant implemented in 2007. He said the graduating class of 2011 will have had the benefit of these programs, and the graduating class of 2022 will have benefited from kindergarten through twelfth grade instruction using the Grade Level Content Expectations. He said the recent results of the High School Report Cards show that Michigan is in transition, as we more fully prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> Century jobs.

VII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:54 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### VIII. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole to order at 9:55 a.m.

### IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. Presentation on the Proposed Certification Standards for Elementary Teachers

The following individuals presented:

- Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Flora Jenkins, Director, Office of Professional Preparation Services
- Catherine Smith, Supervisor, Office of Professional Preparation Services
- Bonnie Rockafellow, Consultant, Office of Professional Preparation Services
- Robert Floden, Professor of Teacher Education, Michigan State University
- Kathy Griffey, Member, Professional Standards Commission for Teachers; and Curriculum Director, Battle Creek Public Schools

Michigan teacher preparation institutions have been preparing elementary teachers using only the framework of the Administrative Rules Governing the Certification of Michigan Teachers. The proposed certification standards are aligned with national and state standards including the Grade Level Content Expectations, and provide specific detail for the content of Michigan's teacher preparation programs for the elementary certificate.

Board member comments and *staff clarifications* included:

1. we are addressing all students in all their diversity;
2. page 16, 3.3, include assistive technology when addressing appropriate use of technology;
3. page 18, 6, include ability to work as a member of an instructional team; work collaboratively – *the upcoming Professional Standards for Michigan Teachers document highlights the need to work as a member of a team in the collaborative aspect;*

4. make sure general education teachers know how to teach special education students who are mainstreamed – *that is a strong part of the Professional Standards for Michigan Teachers document; need to make more visible in these standards as well; 2.0 language can be strengthened;*
5. strengthen the language regarding ability to work with diverse student populations;
6. what are the major changes – *limiting content major and minor and emphasizing preparation and core content; two options; planned programs varied by institution, now there must be specified content so that all core areas are in every teacher's experience; clarity and specificity of content area in standards have not been in place previously;*
7. content specialists who are becoming teachers mid-career may know content well, but they may not remember what it is like to be an initial learner of that content;
8. what were the initial objections and how were they addressed – *student centered endorsements and not being able to use them as majors and minors as part of the planned program, but that was overcome by using two options;*
9. this document seems to foster teacher education programs that help the teacher teach core content to all students;
10. if a candidate does well on all areas on the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification, but fails one content area, will they fail the entire test – *on the current elementary test you can miss all the questions in one content area, and do well on all the other questions and pass the test; staff will be working on a future test with more questions to provide more information to the student and institution;*
11. will content areas be taught in the college of education or in liberal arts and does it make a difference – *varies by institution nationally; whether or not it makes a difference also varies by course, institution, and qualifications of faculty; and*
12. is placement of content area instruction considered in the national accreditation process – *qualifications of faculty and program outcomes are considered in national accreditation.*

This item will be presented for approval at the January meeting.

Mrs. Carnell arrived at 10:30 a.m.

B. Presentation on Pilot of Education YES! Data

The following individuals presented:

- Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
- Joseph Martineau, Interim Director, Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability

Education YES! has been Michigan's system of state school accreditation since 2002. School year 2006-07 was a statewide pilot of revised indicators using the School Improvement Framework. The Department proposed continued consideration of the 2007-08 school year as a statewide pilot for Education YES! to pilot changes in the achievement data, and continuation of the Department's partnership with the North Central Association. Prior to the 2008-09 school year, staff will conduct public hearings and then seek legislative approval as required by the Revised School Code.

Board member comments and *staff clarifications* included:

1. how did the pilot work this year – *the field was happy with the pilot; went from 11 to 40 school indicators and it helped provide schools with more information for their school improvement process; we need to make sure we are looking at the whole system; won't be significantly different from last year;*
2. is the expansion in the number of schools or what they are participating in – *expanding what the schools will participate in;*
3. at the School Improvement Conference they were looking for schools to participate in the North Central/Advanced Ed pilot; is this the same – *that is a different pilot for North Central Accreditation that has 90 indicators;*
4. is North Central part of AdvancED – *North Central Association is under the larger umbrella of Advanced Ed; and*
5. currently there are many plans in a school district, consolidating plans into one plan will be a tremendous help to improve schools.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. to reconvene the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of November 13, 2007

**Mrs. Bauer moved, seconded by Mrs. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting of November 1, 2007.**

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich**

**Absent: Danhof**

**The motion carried.**

XII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- A. Center for Civic Education Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon

Mrs. Straus said she and Mrs. Curtin attended the Center for Civic Education Annual Conference and Awards Luncheon on December 6, 2007, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. She said the speaker, Ted McConnell, Director of the Congressional Campaign for Civic Education, emphasized the bi-partisan nature of the effort. Mrs. Straus said he said the early founders of public education did so in order to develop educated, informed, participating citizens, as well as workers, so that our democratic form of government could and would not only survive, but thrive. She said he urged continued work in Michigan to strengthen civic education.

- B. MI-Access Standard Setting

Mrs. Straus said while she was leaving the Kellogg Center after the Civic Education event she was told that the MI-Access Standard Setting for Science Assessments was also occurring, and she was able to visit briefly with members of various panels. She said she met an impressive, conscientious group of classroom teachers, parents, and business representatives.

C. Network of Michigan Educators Annual Conference

Mrs. Straus said she also attended the Network of Michigan Educators Annual Conference and banquet on December 6 where June Teisan, Michigan Teacher of the Year, delivered an excellent speech. She said it is always an uplifting event with so much enthusiasm and teachers learning from each other. She said she and Mrs. Curtin participated in the December 7 workshop, "Conversation with the State Board" that was informative for all involved. She said Mr. Flanagan was the opening speaker that morning, and he was well received.

D. Communities in Schools Annual Meeting and Dinner

Mrs. Straus said she attended the Communities in Schools Annual Meeting and Dinner on December 7 in Detroit which brings together several hundred parents, community members, and representatives of the many schools in the greater Detroit area with which Communities in Schools work.

E. Meeting with University of Michigan and Detroit Public Schools

Mrs. Straus said on November 27 she met with representatives of the University of Michigan – Detroit Public Schools Partnership group which is exploring ways that the University of Michigan professors can assist Detroit Public Schools. She said the professors represent the College of Education; College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; and the College of Engineering. She said a joint planning committee was established, and the State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education were invited to participate.

F. JumpStart Coalition

Mrs. Straus said she spoke at the Michigan JumpStart Forum on Financial Literacy on December 4. She said community members and 175 elementary, middle school, and high school teachers attended the professional development session that included presentations on lesson plans and creative ideas for teaching including credit, checking, mortgages, budgets, pay checks, and tax deductions. She said it was very worthwhile information for teachers that can now be accessed online.

### XIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

#### Reports

- D. Report on the Conditional Approval of a Modification to the Previously Approved Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

#### Grants

- E. 2006-2007 Comprehensive School Reform – Amendment
- F. 2007-2008 State-Funded Michigan School Readiness Program Competitive Grants – Initial and Continuation
- G. 2007-2008 Mandated Activities Project, Preschool Outcomes Measurement Grant – Continuation
- R. 2007-2008 Title III – Immigrant Grant Program – Amendment
- S. 2007-2008 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Grant – Amendment

Mr. Flanagan provided an oral report on:

- A. Network of Michigan Educators Annual Conference

Mr. Flanagan said he spoke at the Network of Michigan Educators Annual Conference on December 7, but he was unable to attend the banquet due to another commitment. He said it is a highlight, because it is an opportunity to see the enthusiasm generated among the teaching profession.

He and Mrs. Straus said Ms. Jean Shane, Special Assistant, Awards and Recognitions, does an excellent job of organizing the event, and it is greatly appreciated by all involved.

- B. Highly Qualified Special Education Teachers

Mr. Flanagan said Michigan's plan had been previously approved by the federal government and Michigan was in compliance, but that was prior to the Michigan Merit Exam and high school graduation requirements. He said the federal government has now directed us to amend our state plan.

Mr. Flanagan said teachers are certified, but some will now need additional content endorsements. He said this only pertains to

secondary special education teachers who instruct students taking the Michigan Merit Exam and who directly teach any of the four core subjects.

Mr. Flanagan distributed a fact sheet regarding Highly Qualified Special Education Teachers.

XIV. TEACHER OF THE YEAR REPORT

The Teacher of the Year Report stands as written.

XV. APPROVAL OF THE REVISED 2007 MASTER PLAN FOR MICHIGAN'S MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE CENTERS

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Betty Underwood, Interim Director, Office of School Improvement; and Mr. Kevin Richard, Science Consultant, Office of School Improvement; presented 2007 Master Plan for Michigan's Mathematics and Science Centers.

Dr. Vaughn said Section 99 of the State School Aid Act requires that the Master Plan for Mathematics and Science Centers be updated every five years by the Department and approved by the State Board of Education. She said the fourth revision of the plan was approved in concept by the Board at its September 11, 2007, meeting contingent upon receipt of a detailed plan.

Ms. Underwood said the document has been reorganized for greater clarity and now refers only to the work of the 33 Mathematics and Science Centers including Center strategies to meet the needs of high priority schools, and coordination with existing state math and science initiatives. She said outcomes are clearly stated, and references to the Network are included only in the appendices.

Mrs. Bauer asked how the Mathematics and Science Centers work with Michigan Integrated Technology Supports. Mr. David Krebs, Network President, from Muskegon Area Intermediate School District; and Mr. Paul Bigford, retired Mecosta-Osceola Math/Science/Technology Center Director; said various resources are used with regard to assistive technology. Mrs. Bauer said the Michigan Department of Education is issuing grant funds that should be integrated into these programs with regard to assistive technology. Dr. Vaughn said staff will explore this further.

Mrs. Curtin said Mr. Paul Bigford was the former Director of the Mecosta-Osceola Math/Science/Technology Center when she was a member of the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District Board of Education. She said she has the utmost respect for him, and he is in attendance.

Ms. Ulbrich said this is a very well-written document, and she appreciates the addition of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives. She said she is working with Automation Alley and she knows of other collaborative efforts to develop a tool box of various supports. She said she believes this report will aid that effort.

Mr. Paul Drummond, Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center, and President of the Michigan Science Teachers Association, Waterford, Michigan, provided comments regarding the high level of collaboration among various partners to provide professional development, curriculum support and alignment, assessment vehicles, student services and resources. He said he supports the document.

Mr. Drummond further stated that as Executive Director of the Detroit Metropolitan Science Teachers Association, with more than 34 years of experience, he also supports the Science Grade Level Content Expectations item that is also being presented for approval at this meeting.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the 2007 Comprehensive Master Plan for Mathematics and Science Centers, attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated December 3, 2007.**

**Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, McGuire, Straus, Turner, Ulbrich**  
**Absent: Danhof**

**The motion carried.**

**XVI. APPROVAL OF THE SCIENCE GRADE LEVEL CONTENT EXPECTATIONS**

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; and Ms. Betty Underwood, Interim Director, Office of School Improvement; presented Approval of the Science Grade Level Content Expectations.

Dr. Vaughn said the K-7 Science Grade Level Content Expectations was presented to the State Board of Education on November 13, 2007. She said staff is now requesting approval with the addition of standard statements. She said the K-7 Grade Level Content Expectations provides a set of expectations that will guide science instruction and assessment in Michigan.

Ms. Underwood said there has been extensive field review. She said the format used is the same as the K-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Grade Level Content Expectations. She said further clarification is provided in the K-7 Science Standard Statements attached to the Board item, which will be incorporated into the

document. She said the next step is to create a companion document to address clarity and continuity, as was done with previous Grade Level Content Expectations.

Mrs. Carnell asked if sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teachers and parents receive a packet containing all of the Grade Level Content Expectations for various subject areas. Ms. Underwood said the information is available on the website; through rollout sessions; and intermediate and local school district curriculum directors, consultants, and principals who have been encouraged to share the full array of materials. She said the K-7 Science Grade Level Content Expectations rollout will be on January 28, 2008, at Michigan State University, and there will be technical assistance sessions throughout the state. She said there will be a companion document for educators, and parents pending funding.

Mrs. Straus asked if the document will be reviewed after one year. Dr. Vaughn said yes.

Dr. Carol L. Jones, Clarkston, Michigan, provided comments in support of the K-7 Science Grade Level Content Expectations.

Ms. Rochelle Rubin, Curriculum Director of Michigan Science Teachers Association, West Bloomfield, Michigan, provided comments in support of the K-7 Science Grade Level Content Expectations.

Ms. Robby Cramer, immediate Past President, Michigan Science Teachers Association, Grand Haven, Michigan, provided comments in support of the K-7 Science Grade Level Content Expectations.

Mr. Austin said out of respect for full public participation, he is requesting that action occur after the portion of the meeting dedicated to public participation. There was Board consensus to take action later in the meeting.

Mrs. Bauer said a vocabulary section should be included in the parent guide.

Mrs. Danhof arrived at 11:47 a.m.

## **XVII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Lisa Hansknecht, Legislative Director; and Ms. Roberta Stanley, Director, Administrative Law and Federal Relations; presented Legislative Update.

Ms. Hansknecht said the Legislature is focused on bringing closure to pending legislation before the holiday recess. She provided an update on

Senate Bill 730 that replaces the term “handicapped person” with “person with a disability” in the Revised School Code; and language regarding consolidation of school districts; Senate Bill 482 regarding inclusion of Social Studies in Michigan Merit Examination and the early award of the Promise Grant; and Senate Bill 842 that prohibits promotion if a student does not pass basic literacy in second or third grade.

Mrs. Straus said research shows that students learn to read at different ages. Ms. Hansknecht said research also indicates that retention does not help the student, and a better option would be to provide alternative services and learning methods of instruction. Ms. Hansknecht said she believes Senator Kuipers is open to discussion on this issue. Mrs. McGuire said quality preschool programs greatly benefit students. Mrs. Curtin said students need early intervention that can be detected prior to third grade. Mrs. Bauer said an investment in additional help during the school day rather than in a summer program can be beneficial.

Mrs. Carnell said the Grade Level Content Expectations have only been in place for two or three years and have not had a chance to work through the system.

Ms. Stanley provided a verbal federal update on pending reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, and federal budget appropriations.

#### XVIII. RECESS

The Board recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:10 p.m.

#### XIX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Amy Bloom, Waterford, Michigan. Ms. Bloom provided comments and written information regarding Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations.
- B. Ms. Sandra Clark, Lansing, Michigan. Ms. Clark, representing the Michigan Historical Center, provided comments and written information on 4<sup>th</sup> grade history content expectations.
- C. Mr. George Wurtzel, Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Wurtzel, representing Opportunities Unlimited for the Blind, provided verbal and written information on Camp Tuhsmeheeta.
- D. Mrs. Mary T. Wood, Warren, Michigan. Mrs. Wood presented verbal comments on the report on public school academies being provided to the Legislature.

- E. Mr. Larry Wagenaar, Ada, Michigan. Mr. Wagenaar, Executive Director, Historical Society of Michigan, provided comments and written information on the Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations.
- F. Mr. David McConnell, Hillsdale, Michigan. Mr. McConnell provided comments regarding Michigan history expectations in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- G. Dr. William Keifer, Warren, Michigan. Dr. Keifer, Superintendent, Warren Consolidated Schools, provided comments on relocation of public school academies.
- H. Mr. Todd Beiderwolf, Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Beiderwolf, representing Warren Consolidated Schools, provided comments on relocation of public school academies.

XX. APPROVAL OF THE SCIENCE GRADE LEVEL CONTENT EXPECTATIONS (continued)

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that the State Board of Education approve the K-7 Science Grade Level Content Expectations, as presented at the November 13 State Board of Education Meeting, and including standard statements attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 26, 2007.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXI. RECEIVE THE REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES; CLARIFICATION FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL ON ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION NO. 7126

Mr. Flanagan reminded the Board that Clarification Regarding Attorney General Opinion No. 7126 and Public School Academy Site Locations is included in the Agenda Folder. Board members were given time to read Mr. Flanagan's December 11, 2007, memorandum that was written in response to the Board's request to receive clarification on public school academy site locations.

Mr. Flanagan said the memorandum concludes "Since the Code permits amendments to the contract during the term of the contract, it is reasonable to conclude that an authorizing body may amend the contract to add to or alter the site or sites of the physical location(s) at which the public school academy operates; however, the public school academy must still comply with the site requirements in MCL 380.504(1)."

Mr. Flanagan gave an update on Connor Creek East in Warren.

Mr. Flanagan said if there is an amendment to the contract, then his delegate, Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, has the authority for school site plan approval. He said under authority of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Michigan Department of Education and the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG), Bureau of Construction Codes, he recommended approval of Conner Creek Academy East school-building site plan conditioned on Conner Creek's submission of a revised site plan reflecting the agreements reached at an October 17, 2007 meeting.

Mr. Flanagan said he has limited authority related to approval of public school academies.

Ms. Joann Neuroth said that Ferris State University, Connor Creek East Public School Academy's authorizer, approved an amendment to Conner Creek's contract in March, 2007.

Mrs. Curtin said traffic patterns and the safety of children crossing the street seem to be a concern.

Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, said the Bureau of Construction Codes examined information related to the city, and public school academy, and made a recommendation based on contingencies being met.

Mr. Austin said Michigan has not had a system that encourages local jurisdictions and regions to be part of the local school planning and site selection decision-making process. He said the process to determine school sites has always been independent of these systems.

Mr. Flanagan said the letter signed by Mrs. Wolenberg states, "based on the Bureau's recommendation and the fact that Connor Creek Academy has agreed to address the City of Warren's concerns, the Superintendent, pursuant to section 1263 of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.1263, approved the Academy's school-building site plan conditioned on Conner Creek's submission to your office of a revised site plan reflecting the agreements reached at the October 17, 2007 meeting as outlined in Mr. Cordill's report."

Mrs. Bauer said that although the Board and Department currently have limited authority with regard to public school academies, the Board has authority for leadership and supervision over all public education for the State of Michigan. She said public school academies are public schools, and it behooves the Board to seek new legislation regarding explicit authority for the Board and Superintendent of Public Instruction to weigh

in on some of these things, including resources allocated to the Department to have sufficient staff to provide oversight.

Mr. Flanagan said there is a plan, through the budget process, to address oversight of authorizers.

Mr. Austin said, he agrees with Mrs. Bauer that the Board should be proactive in calling for legislation, and he believes that school siting should be done in the context of local and regional planning and zoning. He said urban renewal, sustainable growth, and urban sprawl are all factors.

Ms. Neuroth said when she joined the Department the idea was that the Department needed rule-making authority in order to exercise its authority over authorizers. She said the previous two annual reports included a recommendation for rule-making authority. She said that recommendation is not in the current report because it is the belief that rule-making would not have helped in any of the situations that the Department had this year. She said the existence of rules may mean that if the Department failed to anticipate something when the rules were established, it would be hampered in dealing with the unanticipated situations. She said the Department has relied on the Superintendent's authority over public education to address situations. She said if something doesn't make sense, the Department has found that people are very responsive to a letter from Mr. Flanagan asking for an explanation of the situation. She said her recommendation is that the Department continue to be exploratory until it has enough information to establish rules.

Mr. Turner said when the initial public school academy legislation was developed and passed there was a clear intent to limit the authority of the Board and Department. He encouraged staff to see what is being done nationally with respect to oversight and borrow best practices.

Mrs. Danhof suggested that the Superintendent, either formally or informally, should establish a code of conduct, since most public school academies are run by businesses.

Mr. Flanagan said that Department rules would be for authorizers, which are universities and not businesses. He said if the Department knows that one authorizer has an outstanding reputation, then it would want to duplicate that.

Mrs. McGuire said that after 15 years, the Board and Department are past an exploratory stage. She said there are many reports including the McPherson Report and Auditor General's Report that list things the Legislature or Department should be doing.

Mrs. McGuire said she was unable to participate in the entire Board Committee meeting and asked what was decided regarding funding. Mrs. Straus responded that after full discussion, it was determined by the Committee that funding would need to come from a different source than the authorizers' percentage of per pupil State Aid.

There was consensus to modify the report to include language regarding additional funding to support additional staff so that the Department can fulfill its oversight responsibility.

Mrs. McGuire asked for an explanation of the statement on page 50, "Conversely, the Superintendent does not require authorizers to: close a school whose actions it finds unacceptable, if a remedy short of closure can restore full compliance and ensure governance integrity." In response, Ms. Neuroth said that if authorizers found actions unacceptable they have required boards to resign, appointed a new board, and required that a school disassociate from the management company. She said if remedies like these can be found that allow the school to continue to operate, the Superintendent does not ask authorizers to close a school.

Mrs. McGuire said there is nothing in the report that addresses the fact that board members should not be family members or related to management companies. Mrs. Straus said that she has heard some management companies have selected board members who then, in turn, approve contracts with that management company. In response, Ms. Neuroth said on page 51 of the report it states "Recommendations for PSA Board candidates come to the authorizers (who appoint them) from the charter applicant or the operating school, which sometimes means that ESP-employed administrators are involved in recruiting and recommending Board members." She said currently the Department expects authorizers to demonstrate what they do to vet those recommendations and form their own opinions before appointments are made to the board.

Mrs. Neuroth said she would continue to recommend that the Legislature strengthen the Department's ability to include language in the statute that says: authorizers must review Educational Service Providers (ESP) contracts and may disallow them.

Mr. Flanagan suggested that the Department invite one representative of the Board of each authorizing institution to a future State Board of Education meeting. He said the suggestion would be discussed at a future agenda planning meeting.

Dr. Vaughn said that Ms. Neuroth is now able to show PSA Boards charts containing data on how much they are actually spending on instruction, compared to the average throughout the state for non-PSAs. With data

PSA boards can begin to ask the hard questions about whether or not it is costing more than is reasonable.

Mrs. Straus said the PSA report contains a lot of good information and involved a lot of work.

Mr. Austin said the report provides good information from an unbiased viewpoint.

Ms. Neuroth said the Department will be working with the council of authorizers over the next year to look at best practice nationally. Michigan has more management companies than any other state, however other states do have management companies, and are wrestling with standards.

Ms. Ulbrich expressed concern that there appears to be an overemphasis on voluntary compliance (pages 48, 51, and 52). She asked if this is a problem when the Board and Department are asking for additional resources and authority from the Legislature.

Mr. Flanagan said because of the number of times that "voluntary" is used in the report, perhaps that is a way to infer why we need rules and more authority.

Mrs. Curtin said that the graphs are good, and asked if the report gets to all local board members of PSAs. She suggested that the intermediate school districts may be able to assist with the distribution of the information.

Mr. Flanagan said if the Department were given rule-making authority, it doesn't mean the Department would need to exercise that authority immediately. He said it takes time to develop and implement rules, and the rules could be amended as needed. Mrs. Danhof encouraged the Board to go after the budgetary requirements that allow the Board and Department to exercise authority, and then decisions can be made on what rules need to be in place.

There was consensus to delay action on the report until January in order to provide staff necessary time to modify the report.

Dr. Vaughn said additional time will also provide staff an opportunity to include public school academy high school data.

Mrs. Danhof asked that the bar graph labels also be made consistent throughout document.

Mrs. Straus said that the Legislative Recommendations will need to be added to the Table of Contents.

This item will return to the Board for approval at the January meeting.

XXII. APPROVAL OF MICHIGAN HISTORY CONTENT EXPECTATIONS FOR  
FOURTH GRADE

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; and Ms. Betty Underwood, Interim Director, Office of School Excellence; presented Approval of Michigan History Content Expectations for Fourth Grade.

Dr. Vaughn said the new Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies were adopted by the Board on October 1, 2007. She said the approval included a request for the addition of content expectations at grade four that address Michigan history beyond statehood. She said information regarding the topics to be included was gathered from the kindergarten through twelfth grade rollout on October 3, at Michigan State University; and draft expectations were placed on the Michigan Department of Education website for public review and comment through the end of October.

**Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the Michigan History Content Expectations for fourth grade, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 26, 2007.**

Mrs. Danhof said she understands the concern that students are being asked to do too much. She said she applauds the ability to look at this in the context of social studies, and not just history. She said she learned state history in that context in fourth grade, and she believes modern-day fourth grade students are much more sophisticated.

Mrs. McGuire said her first-grade granddaughter in California is learning about the planets, the nation, and California. She said she believes adults tend to underestimate the ability of children.

Mrs. Straus said in an integrated curriculum concepts from various subjects are melded together. She said some people have the misconception that subject matter should be taught separately. She said there should be a crosswalk to civics and economics in the companion documents. Dr. Vaughn said the companion documents are the appropriate place for the crosswalk. Ms. Underwood said the rollout and professional development sessions will also emphasize the use of an integrated curriculum. Mrs. Straus said she wants to ensure that there will be sufficient time for focusing on civics instruction.

Mrs. Danhof and Ms. Underwood said there are many organizations that will work with the Department to help teachers integrate the curriculum.

Mrs. Curtin asked if these concerns were submitted as part of the document review on the website. Ms. Underwood said based on comments at the October 1, 2007, Board meeting, a revised document was shared at the rollout session on October 3. She said the document was edited and posted to the website for public review and 400 responses were received. She said additional edits were made which resulted in the current document.

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**XXIII. APPROVAL OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR MI-ACCESS PARTICIPATION, SUPPORTED INDEPENDENCE, AND FUNCTIONAL INDEPENDENCE GRADES 5 AND 8 SCIENCE ASSESSMENTS**

Dr. Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Marilyn Roberts, Director, Educational Assessment and Accountability for Special Populations; and Steve Viger, Psychometrician, Educational Assessment and Accountability; presented Approval of Performance Standards for MI-Access Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional Independence Grades 5 and 8 Science Assessments.

Ms. Roberts distributed a December 11, 2007, memorandum "Approval of Proposed Performance Standards for MI-Access Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional Independence Grades 5 and 8 Science Assessments." She also distributed bar graph charts for ELA (English Language Arts), Mathematics, and Science – Percents of Students Scoring in Each Performance Category.

Dr. Vaughn said the standard setting is a well-documented process that occurred December 5 and 6, 2007, for the proposed performance standards that will be recommended for use with MI-Access Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional Independence. She said science assessments were administered to fifth and eighth grade students for the first time in the fall, and eleventh grade science assessments will be administered in the spring of 2008. She said recommended science standards for eleventh grade will be brought to the Board for approval at that time.

Ms. Roberts said MI-Access is Michigan's alternate assessment program for students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the Michigan Educational Assessment Program or the Michigan Merit Exam assessments. Mrs. Roberts said the panelists were diverse with respect to educational experience, geographic location, level of educational attainment, and other relevant variables. She said panelists made their final judgments individually, and the resulting recommendations represent a compilation of the individual judgments

which were reviewed by staff and the Technical Advisory Committee for final recommendations.

In response to Mrs. Danhof, Ms. MaryAlice Galloway, Assistant to the Chief Academic Officer, said this counts for the federally mandated limit of students assessed on alternate standards.

Mrs. Straus said she was present during a portion of the standard setting process and this is exceptionally good work. She said Michigan is known for being top in the country for alternate assessment.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mrs. Danhof, that the State Board of Education approve the recommended performance standards for the MI -Access Participation, Supported Independence, and Functional Independence Grades 5 and 8 Science Assessments, and direct staff to use these performance standards in reporting the fall 2007 results for each of these MI -Access science assessments.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXIV. APPROVAL OF CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS PROGRAM

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under discussion.

Mr. Flanagan reminded the Board that a Revised Approval of Criteria for Evaluation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program item is included in the Agenda Folder.

Mrs. Straus said she asked that the item be removed from the Consent Agenda, because she did not think the wording of the evaluation criteria was accurate. She said the error has been corrected in the revised item in the Agenda Folder.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the Evaluation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program, as described in the Superintendent's revised memorandum dated December 11, 2007.**

Mrs. Danhof said wording should be added to ensure the appropriate use of grant funds.

Dr. Lindy Buch, Director, Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services, said internal monitoring reviews the fiscal portion of the grant. She said the evaluation reviews the quality of the programs.

Mr. Austin said cost benefit may be a more suitable term. He said the evaluation could address outcomes. Dr. Buch said the area to address would be student outcomes compared with program quality.

Mrs. Danhof said the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program is designed to provide opportunities for academic enrichment particularly for students who attend high priority schools. She said the programs provided should align to the needs of the particular school. Dr. Buch said a statement will be added to the criteria. She said any non-profit organization may apply to conduct the evaluation.

The vote was taken on the motion, as modified by discussion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXV. APPROVAL OF THE CRITERIA FOR THE TITLE I, PART A, SCHOOLWIDE PLANNING GRANT

This item was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under discussion.

Mrs. Straus said she requested that the item be removed from the Consent Agenda, because she had a question about which schools are eligible.

Ms. Betty Underwood, Interim Director, Office of School Improvement, said eligible applicants are defined in Title I, Part of the No Child Left Behind Act legislation. She said the criteria are that poverty level must be 40% or higher, and the school has not previously applied for the grant.

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the Title I, Part A Schoolwide Planning Grant, as identified in Attachment A of the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 26, 2007.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXVI. CONSENT AGENDA

Criteria

- N. Approval of Criteria for Evaluation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Program
- O. Approval of the Criteria for the Title I, Part A Schoolwide Planning Grant

Resolutions

- P. Adoption of Resolution Honoring Marilee Bylsma
- Q. Adoption of Resolution Regarding Michigan School Principal's Week

**Mr. Austin moved, Mr. Turner seconded, that the State Board of Education approve the Superintendent's recommendations for the consent agenda, as follows:**

- N. **(This item was removed from the consent agenda and placed under discussion);**
- O. **(This item was removed from the consent agenda and placed under discussion);**
- P. **adopt the resolution honoring Marilee Bylsma, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 26, 2007; and**
- Q. **adopt the resolution regarding Michigan School Principal's Week, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 26, 2007.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The resolution honoring Marilee Bylsma is attached as Exhibit A.

The resolution regarding the Michigan School Principal's Week is attached as Exhibit B.

XXVII.COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

- A. National Association of State Boards of Education Voting Delegate – Mrs. Nancy Danhof

Mrs. Danhof said she has received a letter from the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) requesting that the Michigan State Board of Education select a voting delegate for its meeting on January 26, 2008. Mrs. Danhof, the Board's NASBE Delegate, said she will not be in attendance at that meeting.

**Mrs. Danhof moved, seconded by Mrs. Curtin, that Mrs. Elizabeth Bauer represent the Michigan State Board of Education as the voting delegate at the**

**meeting of the National Association of State Boards  
of Education on January 26, 2008.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Resolution Honoring Marilee Bylsma – Mrs. Kathleen Straus**

Mrs. Straus said the Resolution Honoring Marilee Bylsma was approved on the Consent Agenda, and she would like to publicly acknowledge Ms. Bylsma's dedication as a teacher and administrator in the Detroit Public Schools for 31 years. Mrs. Straus said Marilee was honored at the Network of Michigan Educators Conference.

**C. Extended Instructional Year – Mrs. Elizabeth Bauer**

Mrs. Bauer said she would like Board members to think about studying a longer instructional year in a pilot school and the related costs.

**XXVIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was suggested during the meeting that one representative of the board of each public school academy authorizing body be invited to a future State Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Flanagan asked Board members to contact a member of the Executive Committee comprised of Mrs. Straus, Mr. Austin, and Mrs. Curtin with suggestions for additional agenda topics.

**XXIX. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- A. January 8, 2008
- B. February 12, 2008
- C. March 11, 2008
- D. April 8, 2008

**XXX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Curtin  
Secretary